



HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

MEETING MINUTES – 545

2 December 2025 | 9:00 am – 1:25 pm

Meeting Room 20, Level 11, 4PSQ & via teleconference

ATTENDANCE

Members

Sally Barnes	Chair
Dr Nicholas Brunton	Member
Alan Croker	Member
Vanessa Holtham	Member
Dr Brian Lindsay	Member
Steve Meredith	Member
Anthea Sargeant	Member
Julian Siu	Member

Apologies

Nil

Heritage NSW

Elizabeth Owers	A/Executive Director
Tim Smith OAM	Director Assessments
Lucy Albani	Director Policy & Strategy
Anna London	Senior Manager Heritage Listing Programs
Alison Lamond	Manager Assessments (<i>item 4.1</i>)

External Presenters

Sally Webb	Deputy Secretary, Safety, Policy, Environ. & Regulation (<i>item 2.1</i>)
Steven Barry	Heritage Specialist, TfNSW (<i>item 2.1</i>)
Tanya Coates	A/Director Environmental Planning and Integration, TfNSW (<i>item 2.1</i>)
Camille Bonnot	A/Senior Heritage Specialist, TfNSW (<i>item 2.1</i>)
Denis Gojak	Senior Heritage Specialist, TfNSW (<i>item 2.1</i>)
Joshua French	Chief Executive, Greater Sydney Parklands (<i>item 2.2</i>)
Stephanie Licciardo	Sen. Manager, Heritage & Culture, Greater Sydney Parklands (<i>item 2.2</i>)

Committee Services

Olgica Lenger	Manager Committee Services
Linda Bugarin	Project Officer
Lily O'Connor	Assistant Policy Officer

IN-CAMERA SESSION

The in-camera session commenced at 9:00 am. This item was not minuted.

Item 1. Welcome and Formalities

The Chair, Sally Barnes, opened the meeting at 9:45 am, delivered an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed the attendees.

It was noted a full quorum was present.

Item 1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Item 4.1 *MLC Building North Sydney (former) (SHR 02069) – SSD-83956216 New University Campus – Response to Submissions*

- The Heritage Council of NSW noted previous declarations from Alan Croker and Nicholas Brunton in relation to this item. Papers were redacted from view and Mr Croker and Mr Brunton were excused from the meeting for this item.
- The Council noted that Vanessa Holtham is on the North Sydney Local Planning Panel. However, the Heritage Council noted that as a panel member, Ms Holtham has had no involvement in this matter and determined no further action was required.

Item 2.2 Greater Sydney Parklands – Callan Park Masterplan

- The Heritage Council noted that Vanessa Holtham was a co-author of the conservation management plan for Callan Park in 2011. The Heritage Council agreed that no further action is required.

Further, the Heritage Council noted Steven Meredith's previous employment with Heritage NSW.

Item 1.2 Out of Session Decisions

Nil

Item 1.3 Minutes from the Previous Meeting – 5 November 2025

Resolution 2025-47
The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:
1. Confirm the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (5 November 2025) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting, with minor amendments.
Moved by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Alan Croker

Item 1.4 Matters Arising

Nil

Item 1.5 Action Report

The Heritage Council noted the report.

Item 2. External Presentations

Item 2.1 TfNSW Heritage Management Approach

Transport for NSW presented its new Strategic Heritage Management framework, designed to enhance the stewardship of the organisation's diverse heritage assets, including roads, railways, and maritime sites.

The agency is focusing on sustainability, improved asset planning, and community engagement. Key priorities include maintaining and reusing assets, especially in regional areas, while working with other government bodies and Heritage NSW to ensure long-term stewardship.

Continued collaboration between Transport for NSW and Heritage NSW was encouraged to further strengthen heritage asset management across the state.

Item 2.2 Greater Sydney Parklands – Callan Park Masterplan

The Heritage Council received a presentation from Greater Sydney Parklands on the Callan Park Masterplan, which includes funding to remove nine buildings to improve open space and community access.

The plan aims to update the Conservation Management Plan, address gaps such as First Nations perspectives, and enhance safety and cultural value. Future work will focus on landscape improvements, climate change impacts, and community engagement.

The Council discussed the balance between demolition and adaptive reuse, the need to revisit building significance rankings, and the importance of public consultation and transparency.

The Heritage Council commended Greater Sydney Parklands on their strategic approach.

Item 3. Legal, Policy and Administration

Item 3.1 Options for Heritage Council and Committees Structure in 2026

The Heritage Council received a paper and presentation from Heritage NSW outlining options for the Council and its committees' structure in 2026.

The Council noted the evolution of its operational environment in recent years and discussed options to increase flexibility, improve efficiency, and reduce administrative complexity, consistent with best practice governance.

Members considered consolidating the meeting schedule, including reducing the number of formal meetings while allowing flexibility for additional out-of-session meetings to meet statutory requirements.

Members also discussed establishing a Heritage Specialist Register to ensure access to specialist knowledge and address any skills gaps. The Council requested a follow-up paper with further details about the new structure, to be finalised at the February meeting.

Resolution 2025-48

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:

1. **Approve** a revised meeting schedule for the Heritage Council and Committees, reducing meetings from 11 to 8 per year and complementing the revised schedule with additional out of session meetings as required to meet the statutory timeframes.
2. **Approve in principle** the establishment of a Heritage Specialist Register to provide technical advice to the Heritage Council, noting that further detail on the proposal will be brought to the February 2026 meeting.

Moved by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Nicholas Brunton

Item 3.2 Heritage Council Self-Assessment Implementation Plan

The Heritage Council received a paper from Heritage NSW on the Heritage Council Self-Assessment Implementation Plan.

Resolution 2025-49
The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to: 1. Approve the final Action and Implementation Plan developed in response to the Heritage Council Self-Assessment Survey.
Moved by Sally Barnes and seconded by Nicholas Brunton

Item 4. Matters for Consideration

Item 4.1 MLC Building North Sydney (former) (SHR 02069) – SSD-83956216 New University Campus – Response to Submissions

Nicholas Brunton and Alan Croker left the room for this agenda item.

The Heritage Council received a paper from Heritage NSW on the response to submissions regarding the MLC Building North Sydney (former) (SHR 02069) – SSD-83956216 for a new university campus on the subject site.

The Council discussed the applicant's response to previously raised issues and, noting that no substantial changes had been made, encouraged continued collaboration with Heritage NSW and the Council to ensure heritage values are adequately considered throughout the project.

Vanessa Holtham reaffirmed her previous position of not supporting this proposal.

Resolution 2025-50
The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to provide the following comments to DPHI: 1. The Heritage Council notes the proponent's Response to Submissions. 2. The Heritage Council notes that no substantial changes to the approach and design have been made on the Educational Scheme that was presented to the Heritage Council at the April 2025 meeting. 3. Heritage NSW is available to work with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in relation to further consideration of this proposal.
Moved by Anthea Sargeant and seconded by Brian Lindsay <i>Nicholas Brunton and Alan Croker left the meeting for the duration of this agenda item.</i>

Item 5. Executive Reports

Item 5.1 Chair, Heritage Council of NSW – Monthly Report

The Heritage Council noted the report and verbal update provided by the Chair.

Item 5.2 Executive Director, Heritage NSW

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

Item 5.3 Planning Report (DPHI)

The Heritage Council noted the monthly planning report.

Item 6. Heritage NSW monthly reports

The Heritage Council noted the monthly operational reports.

Item 7. General Matters

Item 7.1 Forward Agenda

The Heritage Council noted the forward agenda.

Item 7.2 2025-26 HC, SHRC, AC Leave Tracker

The Heritage Council noted the status of the members' leave tracker.

Meeting Close

There being no further items of business, the Chair, Sally Barnes, closed the meeting at 1:25 pm.



Sally Barnes

Chair, Heritage Council of NSW

4 February 2026