



HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

MEETING MINUTES – 520

4 October 2023 | 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Meeting Room 11, Heritage NSW, Level 11, 135 King Street, Sydney & via teleconference

ATTENDANCE

Members

Mr Frank Howarth AM PSM	Chair
The Hon Robyn Parker	Deputy Chair
Mr Nicholas Brunton	Member
Mr Ian Clarke	Member
Ms Vanessa Holtham	Member
Dr Brian Lindsay	Member
Ms Colleen Morris	Member
Ms Anthea Sargent	Member
Mr Dillon Kombumerri	Observer

Apologies

Nil

State Heritage Register Committee *(Item 3.1)*

Ms Lisa Trueman	Member
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External Presenters

Mr Andrej Stevanovic	Project Director, Infrastructure NSW <i>(item 3.1)</i>
Ms Lisa Havilah	CEO, Museum Applied Arts & Sciences <i>(item 3.1)</i>
Ms Natalie Vinton	CEO, Curio Projects <i>(item 3.1)</i>
Ms Debbie Mills	CEO, National Trust of Australia (NSW) <i>(item 3.1)</i>
Mr David Burdon	Conservation Director, National Trust of Australia (NSW) <i>(item 3.1)</i>
Mr Tim Roberts	Co-Project Director Barangaroo Central, Aqualand <i>(item 3.2)</i>
Mr Adam Haddow	Director of Architect, SJB <i>(item 3.2)</i>
Mr Nicholas Wolff	Program Director, TfNSW <i>(item 3.3)</i>
Mr David Barnard	Design Manager, TfNSW <i>(item 3.3)</i>
Ms Silvija Smits	Director Design & Planning, TfNSW <i>(item 3.3)</i>
Ms Miriam Stacy	Heritage Specialist, TfNSW NSW <i>(item 3.4)</i>
Mr Denis Gojak	Senior Heritage Specialist, TfNSW <i>(item 3.4)</i>
Ms Sally Durham	Director Environment & Sustainability (Regions), TfNSW <i>(item 3.4)</i>
Mr Tom Grosskopf	Executive Director Network & Assets, TfNSW <i>(item 3.4)</i>

Heritage NSW

Mr Sam Kidman	Executive Director
Ms Lucy Albani	Director Policy & Strategy
Ms Sonia Limeburner	A/Director Policy & Strategy
Mr Harvey Johnston	A/Director Heritage Programs
Ms Rochelle Johnston	A/Director Heritage Assessments
Ms Mariyam Nizam	Senior Assessments Officer <i>(item 3.2)</i>
Mr Michael Ellis	A/Senior Manager Major Projects <i>(items 3.3 & 3.4)</i>
Ms Chrisia Ang	Senior Assessments Officer <i>(item 3.3)</i>

Ms Caroline Ford	Manager Policy & Reform (<i>items 3.4 & 4.1</i>)
Ms Rose Cullen	Senior Policy Officer (<i>item 4.1</i>)

Secretariat

Ms Elizabeth Thomas	A/Manager Secretariat
Ms Jo-Anne Pickles	Secretariat Officer

IN-CAMERA SESSION

This item was not minuted.

Item 1. Welcome and Formalities

The Chair, Frank Howarth, opened the meeting at 9:30 AM and delivered an Acknowledgment of Country.

There were no apologies received for this meeting.

It was noted that a quorum had been met.

Item 1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the standing COI declaration for SHRC member, Natalie Vinton for *Item 3.1 Powerhouse Museum*. Ms Vinton did not receive the meeting materials and attended in her professional capacity for the Infrastructure NSW presentation only.

Item 1.2 Out of Session Decisions

There was no business conducted out of session since the previous ordinary meeting.

Item 1.3 Minutes from the Previous Meeting – 4 October 2023

Resolution 2023-28
The Heritage Council of NSW: 1. Confirmed the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (2 August 2023) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting.
Moved by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Nicholas Brunton

Item 1.4 Matters Arising

The Paragon, Katoomba (SHR 01959)

Members noted the recent correspondence regarding *The Paragon Café, Katoomba* and discussed the potential for compliance and enforcement actions to be taken if necessary to ensure the substantial conservation, maintenance and repair works are completed.

The Council held a broader discussion around compliance and the potential to seek an amendment to the *Heritage Act 1977* to allow for penalty infringement notices to be issued.

Resolution 2023-29
The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to 1. Recommend to the Minister implementing an amendment to the Heritage Act to allow penalty infringement notices to be issued prior to the Heritage Act reforms being finalised.
Moved by Nicholas Brunton and seconded by Colleen Morris

Item 1.5 Action Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report and closed the items recommended for closure. The register was updated to reflect further actions required.

Item 2. Heritage NSW and Committees Updates

Item 2.1 Executive Director, Heritage NSW

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report and a verbal update from the Executive Director on various matters including:

- an update on a recent meeting held with the Millers Point Community Resident Action Group and options being explored by Heritage NSW to conserve and protect key heritage views and sightlines
- the positive stakeholder feedback received following the ICOMOS GA 2023, and
- an update on the *GovHack* event, co-sponsored by Heritage NSW.

The Council acknowledged the great work done by Heritage NSW in delivering its contributions to the ICOMOS program.

Item 2.2 State Heritage Register Committee (SHRC)

Robyn Parker, Chair of the State Heritage Register Committee, provided an update on key outcomes for items considered at the 3 October SHRC meeting including:

- Notices of Intent for *Victoria Pass and Berghofers Pass*, Mount Victoria; *Greenway*, Vacluse; and the *Wellington Town Common*.
- Recommendations to list the *Kameruka Golf Course*; and the *Nan Tien Temple*, Berkeley; and
- an update on the *Port Kembla Telephone Exchange*.

Members also noted that Heritage NSW is currently finalising the SHR gap analysis which will inform the future work plan for priority SHR listings.

Item 2.3 Approvals Committee (AC)

Ian Clarke, Chair of the Approvals Committee, provided an update on the key outcomes for items considered at the 3 October AC meeting including:

- pre-lodgement consultation for a proposed integrated development application for *The Priory*, Hunters Hill
- pre-lodgement consultation with Transport for NSW for the *Moss Vale Railway Station upgrade*; and
- a section 60 application for the partial removal of a barbette wall at the *Sydney Opera House*.

Item 3. External Presentations

Item 3.1 Powerhouse Museum preliminary assessment – Infrastructure NSW and National Trust presentations

The Council received a report from Heritage NSW and presentations from the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and Infrastructure NSW for the nomination to list the Powerhouse Museum (buildings and collection) on the State Heritage Register.

Members of the State Heritage Register Committee were also invited to attend for this item.

National Trust of Australia (NSW) presentation

The National Trust, as nominee for the listing, presented their views on the significance of the building and the museum collection.

Members noted the nomination is for the entire collection. The various elements of the Wran and Harwood buildings that display the social, historic and architectural significance of the site were discussed, as well as the redevelopment and activation of the site in relation to its role as a contemporary museum collection.

The Council thanked the National Trust for their presentation.

Infrastructure NSW/Powerhouse Museum presentation

The Powerhouse Museum, Curio Projects and Infrastructure NSW, as owner representatives for the listing, presented their views for the proposed adaptive reuse of the Ultimo Power House, highlighting the operational constraints and challenges and future requirements for contemporary museum practices.

Key points raised:

- Extensive investigations over the past twelve months indicate that the Wran building fabric is reaching the end of life with many components due for replacement.
- Whilst the Museum is the most important part of the site, the intangible heritage and historical significance of the site should also be celebrated.
- The digitisation, conservation and restoration of 384,000 objects previously located within the Harwood Building is underway, and the consolidated collection will be stored at the Castle Hill site, which is due to open in November 2023.
- The Harwood Building is intended to remain part of the Museum with workshop facilities and some staff located on site.

The Council thanked the Powerhouse Museum, Curio Projects and Infrastructure NSW for their presentation.

Following the presentations, members acknowledged the decentralised model for Museum operations and the evolution of the Conservation Management Plan and discussed options to partially amend the curtilage to encompass the Wran and Harwood buildings to recognise the social and historic significance of the whole site.

The Council also discussed the capacity to amend the gradings of significance to allow for adaptability and flexibility to respond to future uses and suggested a more encompassing Statement of Significance would be required if the whole site was listed.

Resolution 2023-30

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:

1. **Note** the significance of the 1988 adaptive reuse of the entire site to create the Powerhouse Museum.
2. **Investigate** an increase of the current SHR curtilage to encompass the whole site of the Powerhouse Museum to recognise its social and historic significance.
3. **Request** Heritage NSW to prepare a revised Statement of Significance based on the expanded curtilage for consideration at a future meeting.
4. **Acknowledge** the capacity for change with the Wran and Harwood buildings based on the revised Statement of Significance and the updated Conservation Management Plan.
5. **Not proceed** with further consideration of the listing of the Powerhouse Museum Collection noting that it is managed by an appropriate statutory body.

Moved by Ian Clarke and seconded by Nicholas Brunton

Item 3.2 Central Barangaroo – Aqualand presentation

The Council received an update from Aqualand on the design concept for Central Barangaroo which has been revised in response to feedback received during the exhibition period.

The masterplan framework has also been refined following engagement with the local community and key stakeholders.

The presentation included the proposed massing envelopes, view corridors, east-west and north-south connections linking the site to the surrounding precincts of Millers Point and Circular Quay, definition around the public-private interface and increased public domain, design modifications and proposed changes to building setbacks.

Members noted the reference design scheme proposes an increased GFA with a mix of residential and retail with options for future commercial use and activation at the ground plane.

The Council thanked Aqualand for the presentation and noted that members will have the opportunity to provide further comments when the revised scheme is placed on public exhibition.

Resolution 2023-31
The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to: 1. Thank Aqualand for the presentation. 2. Note the potential impacts of the significant increase in gross floor area compared to Modification 8 and its ongoing concern about the views to and from Millers Point and Observatory Hill. 3. Note that the revised scheme will need to be placed on public exhibition at which time Council will have the opportunity to provide further comments.
Moved by Colleen Morris and seconded by Ian Clark

Sam Kidman left the meeting at 1:00 PM

Item 3.3 Central Precinct Renewal Program – Response to Submissions update

The Council received a report from Heritage NSW and a presentation from Transport for NSW on the *Central Precinct SSP program* and the *Sydney Terminal Building revitalisation project*.

TfNSW reported that the Response to Submissions for both the renewal program and the revitalisation project have been finalised and submitted to government for determination.

Central Precinct SSP program

Amendments to the masterplan following the public exhibition include:

- modification of the built form to incorporate wind mitigation strategies and improved pedestrian pathways, interface with the public domain and connectivity for the Western Gateway
- improved interface between the Sydney Terminal and Over Station Development with indicative design for the heritage elements
- establishing a Connecting to Country Welcome Centre on site
- creation of a Central Urban Plaza and a technology hub, and
- a revised scheme for the Mortuary Station Garden with greater retention of some existing plantings.

An ACH management plan and guidelines have also been developed with reference to the Sydney Local Environmental Plan.

Sydney Terminal Building revitalisation project

TfNSW presented the key themes received in the Response to Submissions for the revitalisation project including; the heritage impacts for the broader precinct, the complex nature of the substations, platform linkages and concept designs for the Eddy Avenue Plaza and East Terrace.

The Council noted that the revitalisation project will be funded by the Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) in a staged approach.

The Council reiterated their ongoing concerns from a heritage perspective for some of the scale proposed for the Central Precinct SSP development, but acknowledged TfNSW's responsiveness to the feedback of key stakeholders including the Heritage Council, and welcomed the changes presented around the station spaces and building configuration.

Item 3.4 Transport for NSW Regional Rail Heritage Strategy development

The Council received a report from Heritage NSW and a presentation from Transport for NSW (TfNSW) on the draft *Regional Rail Heritage Strategy*.

Extensive consultation commenced in April 2023 prior to the Strategy being placed on public exhibition (targeted for April 2024).

The Strategy will include the history and overview for each line; a Statement of Significance, identification of the ACH and heritage assets, lost heritage, and an itemised database of all the assets contained therein and will seek to:

- identify opportunities for underutilised and vacant assets across the whole network
- enable a representative heritage asset collection to be formed, and
- identify any immediate conservation works required for heritage assets.

TfNSW outlined the scope, objectives, outcomes and methodology for the strategy with line prioritisation to consider public visitation, future uses and mapping that includes where key heritage assets are located.

The risks and challenges associated with the conservation and maintenance of timber heritage rail bridges were noted. Development of the strategy includes investigation for potential divestment of some heritage assets, as well as potential opportunities for adaptive reuse for cycleways and pedestrian pathways and for ACH and heritage interpretation.

TfNSW thanked Heritage NSW for their involvement as a member of the stakeholder working group and will seek the Council's endorsement for the Strategy in Q3 2024.

The Council congratulated TfNSW for the effort being put into developing the strategy to acknowledge the significant rail heritage. Noting the asset management approach for the strategy, members emphasised the need for quality community consultation.

Resolution 2023-32

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:

1. **Note** the progress made by Transport for NSW on developing the draft *Transport for NSW Regional Rail Heritage Strategy (RRHS)*.
2. **Encourage** Transport for NSW to:
 - a. provide a clear indication of how statutory responsibilities under the *Heritage Act 1974* will be met and supported by the RRHS (including both prioritised and non-prioritised heritage assets);
 - b. ensure that State Heritage Register listed items are weighted appropriately in the proposed methodology; and

c. include provision for funding the update of Section 170 registers in the delivery of the <i>NSW Regional Rail Heritage Strategy</i>. 3. Request Transport for NSW to clarify the criteria and implementation plan for the prioritised and non-prioritised lines.
Moved by Nicholas Brunton and seconded by Vanessa Holtham

Item 4. Legal, Policy and Administration

Item 4.1 NSW Heritage Strategy – proposed approach

The Heritage Council of NSW received an update from Heritage NSW on the proposed approach for the development of the *NSW Heritage Strategy*.

Members noted the key takeaways from the Ministers Roundtable and the ICOMOS Scientific Symposium, and preparation of a report on the key themes arising from ICOMOS GA2023.

The indicative timeline and engagement approach for developing the Heritage Strategy was outlined with targeted stakeholder engagement due to commence in October 2023 prior to public consultation in mid-2024. Next steps include:

- a focus on finalising the project and engagement plans
- preparation of materials to support engagement with counterpart agencies and targeted stakeholders, and
- developing the indicative funding strategy.

Members provided feedback noting:

- the outcomes of the wellbeing of heritage research study will be useful to underpin the strategic approach
- the importance of the implementation plan and economic analysis
- the key aspects of the draft strategy to drive the various focus groups
- stakeholder engagement opportunities, including liaising with the *Museums of History NSW* who are hosting the *Sydney Open* built environment conference on 5 November 2023.

The Council thanked Heritage NSW for the update and looks forward to receiving a more detailed presentation at the next meeting.

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 Planning Report (DPE)

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the planning report and verbal update provided by Anthea Sargeant.

Item 5.3 Advisory Panels Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the Advisory Committee and Panels report.

Item 6. Heritage NSW Reporting

Item 6.1 Heritage NSW – Annual Reports

Resolution 2023-33
The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:
1. Approve the Heritage Council 2022-2023 Annual Report.
Moved by Robyn Parker and seconded by Ian Clarke

Item 6.2 Heritage Operations – Monthly Reports

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the monthly reports and verbal updates from Rochelle Johnston and Harvey Johnston.

Item 7. General Matters

Item 7.1 Forward Agenda

The Heritage Council of NSW reviewed the forward agenda.

Item 8. Meeting Close

There being no further items of business, the Chair, Frank Howarth, closed the meeting at 3:00 PM.



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Frank Howarth AM PSM
Chair, Heritage Council of NSW
Date: 1 November 2023