

MINUTES OF HERITAGE REFERENCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2024

- Present: Councillor K Wheatley (Chairperson) (Wahroonga Ward)
Councillor S Lennon (Deputy Chairperson) (Gordon Ward)
Mr Robert Moore – National Trust
Ms Lorna Watt – Ku-ring-gai Historical Society
Mr Michael Gunn – Australian Institute of Architects
Ms Zeny Edwards – Local Historian and Community Member
Mr Chris Bluett- Community Member
- Staff Present: Manager Urban & Heritage Planning (Antony Fabbro)
Team Leader Urban Planning (Craig Wyse)
Heritage Specialist Planner (Claudine Loffi)
- Others Present: Councillor B Ward - Ku-ring-gai Council
Councillor S Ngai - Ku-ring-gai Council
Councillor A Taylor- Ku-ring-gai Council
Councillor C Kay - Ku-ring-gai Council
- Apologies: Nil

The Meeting commenced at 12:30 PM

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interest was declared.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

NOTING OF MINUTES

Minutes of Heritage Reference Committee

File: CY00413/11

Meeting held 6 December 2023

RESOLVED

That the Committee note the adopted minutes from the meeting of 6 December 2023.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Proposed NSW government planning changes for increased housing

File: S14428

Vide: GB.1

The Committee discussed the NSW housing policy and the matters raised in Council's draft heritage submission. Staff shared the latest update of this submission since finalising the agenda papers. Chris Bluett tabled the Eryldene media release on this proposal.

The Government's consultation to date, proposed timeline for the two policies, Council's information forum, recent media reports and other Council and organisation responses were discussed. Key aspects of the proposal discussed included the scale and density of proposed housing types, development merit assessment, non-refusal standards and proposed pattern book approach. The current government competition for pattern book designs was noted and its similarity to the old schedule 7 controls that led to the 3-storey walk-ups. The Committee did not support these proposals for heritage and adjoining sites. Impacts on historic buildings, gardens, tree canopy in Ku-ring-gai and other areas were discussed. The impacted state listed items in the area was queried.

For development of heritage sites, the Committee recommended site specific responses through master planning and place-based design, or design solutions appropriate to place, as set out by the Government Architect's Office recently released policies. The Committee advocated a return to orderly planning, to more effectively address housing affordability as well as other community needs. Better options for housing affordability and overseas high occupancy design solutions were discussed. The Committee recommended that planning policies recognise the community investment into conserving heritage places and listings to date.

RESOLVED

The Heritage Reference Committee supported Council's draft heritage submission.

Heritage assessments and listings update

File: CY00413/12

Vide: GB.2

The Committee discussed the reported listings and assessments underway. A demonstration of the newly uploaded conservation area inventories on the online heritage database was noted and supported.

Implications of the NSW housing policies for heritage studies and listings underway within the affected areas were also discussed. The Committee recommended proceeding with Council's adopted heritage strategy priorities for identifying significant places yet to be listed, recognising that community understanding evolves, such as demonstrated with post-war architecture.

RESOLVED

The Committee received and noted the update.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 2pm