

## **MINUTES OF HERITAGE REFERENCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2025**

- Present: Councillor K Wheatley (Chairperson) (Wahroonga Ward)  
Councillor I Balachandran (Deputy Chairperson) (Gordon Ward)  
Mr Robert Moore – National Trust  
Ms Lorna Watt – Ku-ring-gai Historical Society  
Ms Margaret Skilbeck – Australian Institute of Architects  
Mr Chris Bluett- Community Member
- Staff Present: Manager Urban & Heritage Planning (Antony Fabbro)  
Team Leader Urban Planning (Craig Wyse)  
Heritage Specialist Planner (Claudine Loffi)  
Strategic Planner Heritage (Philippa Hayes)
- Others Present: Councillor C Kay - Ku-ring-gai Council  
Councillor M Devlin - Ku-ring-gai Council
- Apologies: Ms Zeny Edwards – Local Historian and Community Member

*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: CY00413/13

Meeting held 3 April 2025

GB.1 to GB.4

### **RESOLVED:**

The circulated minutes were taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Her-story Project Update**

File: CY00413/13

*Vide: GB.1*

The Heritage Reference Committee noted the latest online inventories uploaded to the State Heritage Inventory, with one to check with Heritage NSW for uploading. The Committee further noted that the 1980s heritage study for many of these items was not resourced to produce full inventories, but prioritised the identification of sites for listing. The Committee noted the benefit of Council's inventory work.

#### **RESOLVED:**

The Heritage Reference Committee received and noted the heritage items with updated online inventories since the last report.

### **2025-26 Heritage Home Grants Allocation**

File: CY00413/13

*Vide: GB.2*

The Committee reviewed the 13 eligible applications, noting a further one was ineligible as completed works. The 13 eligible applications were recommended for approval, with conditions to seek clarification or variations for appropriate conservation and/or noting background information including:

- 15 Arthur St roof - tile salvage instead of painting.
- 1 Carnavon Rd - soft lime mortar, pressure cleaning care, exclude lowest quote.
- 41 Lucinda Ave & 1566 Pacific Hwy – hot dipped galvanised steel for lintel.
- 23 Roland Ave gutters – match materials, exclude quote for colorbond gutter, noting past roof works guided by Scott Robertson.
- 402 Bobbin Head Rd – noting fine stained glass, possibly significant designer.
- 5 Thomas Ave fence – refer to original fence detail in historic photo.
- 1 Pibrac Ave stair carpet – noting distinctive building features.
- 3 Womerah St gate – noting fine architectural features for original building.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- A. The Heritage Reference Committee recommends allocation of grants for the Heritage Home Grants Fund 2025/26 excluding the one ineligible grant, with conditions for appropriate conservation.
- B. That Council waives any applicable minor works application fees required by successful grant recipients to undertake projects approved for funding.

## **Heritage strategy ongoing projects update**

File: CY00413/13

*Vide: GB.3*

The Heritage Reference Committee noted and discussed the reported strategic heritage projects updates. Particular comments are noted as follows.

NSW heritage strategy - The committee noted that this needed to give more attention to the majority and diversity of NSW heritage, including the conservation of heritage conservation areas and the setting or context of heritage items, particularly in relation to state housing policy. Council staff will circulate the draft Council submission to members for comments.

Modern study – The AIA member requested to review the draft inventories for identifying those on the AIA register.

Park signs – The committee requested the draft list of parks for potential signs. Council staff will circulate the list.

St Ives WWII relief map – The committee supports the intention for conservation and seeking a Federal grant.

### **RESOLVED:**

The Heritage Reference Committee received and noted this report and provided comments.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Heritage item delisting and SSDs**

File: CY00413/13

*Vide: OB.1*

The Chair and Deputy Chair raised questions for the committee on these matters.

The Chair questioned whether the Committee would support a recommendation for the Minister for Planning to delist “stranded” heritage items, and associated risks of lowering the delisting threshold driven by development or politics rather than sound heritage principles and the ongoing implications for future generations. The Committee was further asked about appropriate measures to prevent inappropriate delisting, whether Council should retain a role in local heritage decisions, and how delisting consideration could be strictly limited to current heritage item owners during the TOD implementation.

Committee members did not support the transfer of local delisting powers to the Minister for Planning. The Committee highlighted the risk of a precedent endangering the future of heritage items and heritage conservation areas if delisting is driven by development or politics rather than heritage significance. The Committee affirmed the need to retain local heritage decisions with the local community, noting existing listings are derived from consultation with the local community about local significance, and advised that delisting requires presentation of legitimate reasons relating to heritage significance. Members commented that, while there is no shortcut for listing or delisting that follow the same planning process, owners can lodge a development application to demolish a heritage item with supporting justification that is then considered on its merits by the consent authority.

The Deputy Chair raised concerns about the impact of context changes to heritage items and sought the Committee advice on guidance for any exceptional process available for items “marooned” by state significant development (SSD).

The Committee noted there is no available exceptional process. The Committee noted its preference for zoning and development standards that are compatible with heritage items. The Committee noted Council’s proposed alternative for transferrable development, and the option for master planning for case-by-case design around heritage items. The Committee noted the issue of disparity of scale when surrounding development dwarfs heritage items and the limits for design to address this disparity. For SSDs, the Committee queried the cut-off date for state “saving” of SSDs, as well as the next steps and expected timing for implementation of Council’s preferred scenario.

*The Meeting closed at 1:50PM*