

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW Approvals Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING

2 August 2006

Heritage Office, 3 Marist Place, Parramatta



PRESENT: Michael Collins (Chair), Peter Mould, David Logan, Julie Bindon, Janet Dore, Diane Jones, Jacqui Goddard
APOLOGIES: Susan Macdonald, Chris Johnson
ALSO PRESENT: Heritage Office: Vincent Sicari, Nikki Ward, Can Ercan, Murray Brown, Susan McHattie
For Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome: Dr Richard Gates (President, The Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome Committee Inc), Jane Ainsworth (Ainsworth Heritage, Heritage Consultant to Richmond Valley Council), Brian Wilkinson (General Manager, Richmond Valley Council)

1. Opening – Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 11:15 am.

1.2 Confirmation and Timing of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed.

Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interests

Michael Collins

Item 5.3 – Michael acts as paid consultant to TIDIC who is the applicant for this proposal.

Non Pecuniary Interests

NIL

Conflicts of Interest

Janet Dore

Item 5.2 – Great Northern Hotel is within Newcastle City Council area: Janet Dore is General Manager for Newcastle City Council.

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Approvals Committee Meeting of 5 July 2006

Members received a copy of the minutes.

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meetings of 5 July 2006 be adopted.

3.0 Action Report

Members received a copy of the action report.

Resolved:

that the Action Report of the meeting of 5 July 2006 be adopted.

4 Presentations

4.1 Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome - IDA

Dr Richard Gates, President of The Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome Committee Inc (also a member of the Evans Head & District Water Committee Inc), gave a presentation in objection to the proposed use of treated effluent from the Evans Head Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) to irrigate a section of the Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome. Dr Gates stated that the area proposed for irrigation is currently used as a grass landing area for light aircraft (eg. Ultra Light aircraft). Dr Gates also claimed that Council's plan for the effluent disposal onto the aerodrome is not consistent with the POM or the Deed of Agreement in terms of continued aviation use of the site and lack of consultation with stakeholders regarding the plans. Dr Gates stated that The Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome Committee Inc, other relevant stakeholders and the community in general had not been contacted by the consultants assessing the development, notifying them of the proposal or inviting feedback.

Dr Gates pointed out that effluent would be high in nutrients and would be a risk to the endangered Pygmy Perch (Listed under EPBC Act 1999) in the surrounding vicinity. The effluent would be picked up by drains and would flow to the Pygmy Perch habitat areas. Further, as a result of irrigation, birdlife would be attracted to the aerodrome site, creating an increased risk of 'bird strike'. Concern was also raised that the proposed irrigation pipes would cut through the WWII drainage system, buried 500mm beneath the ground surface.

4.2 Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome - IDA

Jane Ainsworth (Ainsworth Heritage & Heritage Consultant for Richmond Valley Council) and Brian Wilkinson (General Manager for Richmond Valley Council) gave a presentation outlining the proposal for the irrigation scheme. Ms Ainsworth stated that tertiary treated effluent would be diverted to the aerodrome. The aim of the proposal is to lessen the amount of effluent flowing into the nearby Salty

Lagoon. It was also proposed that Richmond Valley Council may introduce a slashing regime to maintain grass in the irrigated area. This site was chosen for the irrigation scheme as the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is requiring Council to consider strategies of effluent re-use. The particular location on the aerodrome was selected as it is one of a few open grass areas on the site, which is mostly bounded by bushland. Council currently has no criteria by which the trial of the irrigation scheme can be judged successful or unsuccessful. Any overflow of effluent would move toward Woodburn-Evans Head Road. During construction, some runways may need to be shut down for a period of approximately 10 days while underboring of runways is carried out. Construction will be aimed at working around heavier weekend use of the site.

5. Integrated Development Applications/Section 60 and 132 Applications/Section 140 Excavation permits

5.1 Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome - IDA

The proposed development is designed to improve the water quality of discharge from the Evans Head Sewage Treatment Works and reduce the volume of downstream discharge. Heritage Council Approvals Committee members expressed concern that the section of land selected for irrigation may become unusable for light air craft and that pollution may affect the site near the aerodrome to be developed into a retirement village. Committee members accepted that the Council needed to engage in consultation with the community and interested groups. It was recognised that independent professional advice regarding the proposal's effect on the aerodrome's functioning capacity and the possibility of attracting birds to the site would be required.

Resolved:

- 1. That the Heritage Council support, in principle, the proposed development.**
- 2. That the Heritage Council is concerned to ensure that the proposed development does not materially adversely affect the operation of the Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome for aviation purposes and accordingly requires Richmond Valley Council to obtain independent reports by suitably qualified people in consultation with local aviation stakeholders which examine the impact of the proposed development in terms of Aviation operations generally, and the potential effect on the use and enjoyment of the site by the aviation industry/public, including the potential for increased birdlife and its impact on aviation uses.**
- 3. That such reports be presented to the Executive Director, Heritage Office, Department of Planning and subject to such reports confirming the acceptability of the proposed development the Heritage Council delegates to the Executive Director the heritage Council's determination of this matter subject to appropriate conditions.**

- 4. That in exercising this delegation the Executive Director allow any approval to operate for a period of no greater than 12 months from the date of commissioning of the development.**

5.2 Great Northern Hotel, Newcastle – S60

The proposed development involves additions and alterations to the Great Northern Hotel, Newcastle. The works consist of new apartment wing in the vacant part of the site, penthouses on the rooftop and refurbishment to the upper levels of the building in order to accommodate the hotel and restaurant use. The first floor level has a high level of significance and demonstrates elements of Art Deco fabric, despite the deterioration it has experienced in recent years.

Issues of concern to the Heritage Council Approvals Committee were that the level 1 refurbishment be more of a restoration than new fitout design and that the proposed rooftop units be less prominent, referring to design and visibility from Scott Street and from elevations behind the building. It was pointed out that part of the significance of the building is its form and any additions should be sympathetic with its design.

Resolved:

- 1. That the Heritage Council defers consideration of the item until the next committee meeting.**
- 2. That a sub-committee be formed comprising: Julie Bindon, Peter Mould, David Logan, Diane Jones to further consider that matter and bring a recommendation to the Heritage Council's Approvals Committee.**

5.3 Cronulla Railway Station – S60

David Logan was Chair for this item.

The proposed development involves minor internal alterations to the Cronulla Railway Station building, extension of the stabling yard towards the southern end of the site, a new staff car park to the east, construction of retaining walls and noise barriers on the perimeter of the site boundary, and relocation of ancillary buildings. The internal works are minor and only impact on the fabric that was introduced during alterations in the 1990s.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council supports the application in principle and delegates approval of this matter to the Executive Director, Heritage Office, Department of Planning, subject to clarification of documentation discrepancies.

6. Development Application Referrals

NIL

7.0 Matters for Consideration

NIL

8.0 Matters for Information

NIL

9.0 General Business

In relation to Kenmore, the Heritage Council Approvals Committee notes the revised wording of the approval.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 1:25 pm.

Michael Collins Chair Approvals Committee Heritage Council of NSW Date:	Next Meeting of the Approvals Committee 6 September 2006 Heritage Office 3 Marist Place Parramatta
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