

**HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW
Approvals Committee**



MINUTES OF MEETING

1 October 2008

Heritage Branch, Department of Planning,
3 Marist Place, Parramatta

PRESENT: David Logan (Acting Chair), Bruce Pettman (representing Peter Mould), Petula Samios, Diane Jones, Julie Bindon

APOLOGIES: Peter Mould, Chris Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Heritage Branch: Rajeev Maini, Graham Williams, Murat Gul Shikha Jhaldiyal, Siobhan Lavelle

1. Opening – Welcome

In the absence of the regular Committee Chair, Peter Mould, David Logan acted as Chair for the duration of the meeting. The Acting Chair opened the meeting at 12:45 pm.

1.2 Confirmation and Timing of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed.

Declarations of Interest

NIL

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Approvals Committee Meeting of 6 August 2008

Members had each received a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Approvals Committee.

Resolved:
that the Minutes of the meeting of 6 August 2008 be adopted.

3. Action Report

Members each received a copy of the action report with the October 2008 meeting Agenda papers.

Resolved:

that the Action Report, noting actions undertaken since the meeting of 6 August 2008, be adopted.

4. Presentations

4.1 Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney – S60

The Presentation, noted in the Agenda papers as scheduled for the meeting, was withdrawn at the request of the applicant.

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

5.1 Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney – S60

Construction of a new guard house, alterations to the Speaker's garden, new public and disabled access route to the Parliament House with new disabled lifts and modification to the perimeter fences. Proposed removal of the ground floor verandah balustrade and introduction of an "embankment" on safety grounds.

Consideration

Murat Gul of the Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, provided members with an overview of the proposal. It was commented upon by members that plans of the proposals, as provided in the agenda papers, were difficult to study prior to the meeting due to the reduced scale of the detail on the plan copies. A larger scale plan was displayed for Members and studied by them at the meeting.

It was noted that there were two aspects to the proposals;

- 1) the proposed changes associated with relocation of the public security and disabled entry and exit from Parliament House and
- 2) the removal of the ground floor verandah balustrade and introduction of an embankment which appears to be separate from the proposed security changes.

Members queried several design and form aspects of the proposed new guard house. Concerns were also expressed on the likely effects on the appearance and public views of Parliament House if the proposed fine mesh fencing material were attached to the existing Macquarie Street palisade fence. Comments were also raised on the introduction of a further fence line to form an enclosed area, within the existing Macquarie Street courtyard, for members of the public exiting Parliament House.

In regard to the proposal for removal of the balustrade Members were advised that this balustrade dates from 1919 and its removal would require further work to ensure compliance with the Building Code of Australia. The safety measure

proposed would involve the construction of an embankment, for the length of the verandah.

Members expressed concerns that the removal of the existing balustrade, which is in itself a recognisable "layer" in the building's heritage, would introduce unnecessary design elements which would impact upon the significance of the building.

Members were in agreement that the proposed additions and alterations to Parliament House will generate significant impact both physically and visually.

In view of the exceptional heritage significance of the building Members agreed that a sub-committee be formed to further investigate and liaise with the Parliament House authorities. It was further agreed that the sub-committee comprise all members of the Approvals Committee.

Members also agreed that Sydney City Council should also be invited to be represented at further discussions on the proposals.

Members agreed that sub-committee meeting(s) be held in the City, in either Planning's Bridge Street Office or the Government Architect's Office.

It was also agreed that the Director of the Heritage Branch brief the Minister and the Chair of the Heritage Council regarding the Committee's concerns.

Resolved

That the Heritage Council:

- a) **note the report; and**
- b) **form a sub-committee to liaise with the applicant with a view to achieving a more acceptable design solution to the security issues and the balustrade removal issue.**
- c) **invite Sydney City Council to be represented in the discussions with the applicant.**

6. Development Application Referrals and Major Project Application Referrals under Part 3A of EP&A Act

6.1 Eveleigh Heritage Walk – construction of a pedestrian and cycle bridge at Lot 500/DP 1033739 and part of Lot 4/DP 862514, Redfern

Members considered an application by the Redfern Waterloo Authority to construct a single-span, trussed steel pedestrian and cycle-bridge across the rail corridor between North Eveleigh and the Australian Technology Park, southwest of the platforms of Redfern Railway Station.

The proposed bridge would provide access between North and South Eveleigh without physically impacting on the Redfern Station or the land within its curtilage. The two sites were previously linked by a pedestrian bridge from c.1912 till the 1980s and the new bridge will primarily recreate that connection.

Members agreed that the proposed bridge should not be used for commercial signage and included in the resolution that the Signage Strategy, prepared prior to construction, should prohibit commercial signage.

Resolved

That the Heritage Council provides the following comments to the Department of Planning:

- **The proposed bridge design, placement and scale is considered to have acceptable levels of impact on the heritage sites in the vicinity and the adjacent Conservation Areas;**
- **The bridge reconnects the two heritage sites of North Eveleigh and ATP that were previously linked by a pedestrian bridge from c.1912 till the 1980s. This is considered to be a positive outcome for the overall site;**
- **The recognition of the indigenous culture of the area in terms of its symbolic associations by the proposed bridge design is commended; and**
- **It is requested that the following conditions be placed as part of the determination of the proposed development:**
 - **The proposal should ensure that the area under the north bridge abutment should be kept clear to allow a view corridor to the Telecommunications Equipment Centre from the centre of the North Eveleigh site;**
 - **The southern ramp structure should be set at the maximum permissible grade to give the shortest run possible to maximise the distance between it and the Work Manager's Office;**
 - **The southern ramp structure should have minimal allowable width to mitigate potential visual impacts from Cornwallis Street to the ATP in general;**
 - **A Landscape Plan must be prepared prior to construction documentation being finalised and implemented prior to the completion of the project to the satisfaction of the Director, Heritage Branch;**
 - **A Signage Strategy must be prepared prior to the construction documentation being finalised and implemented prior to completion of project to the satisfaction of the Director, Heritage Branch. The Signage Strategy should prohibit the use of commercial signage on the bridge; and**
 - **An Interpretation Plan must be prepared prior to the construction documentation being finalised and implemented prior to the completion of project to the satisfaction of the Director, Heritage Branch.**

7.0 Matters for Consideration

NIL

8.0 Matters for Information

NIL

9.0 General Business

There being no further business the Acting Chair closed the meeting at 3:00 pm.

David Logan Acting Chair Approvals Committee Heritage Council of NSW	Next Meeting of the Approvals Committee 5 November, 2008 3 Marist Place Parramatta
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