

**MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL  
APPROVALS COMMITTEE**  
THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2001 BUILDING P3, SMOKING ROOM  
QUARANTINE STATION, NORTH HEAD

**1. In Attendance**

Jim Barrett	Chair
Terry Barnes	
Alan Croker	
Graham Quint	National Trust of Australia (NSW)
Bruce Pettman	Acting Chair Government Architect's Office DPWS
Reece McDougall	Assistant Director, Heritage Office

**Also in Attendance**

Susan Macdonald	Heritage Office
Lannie Purcell	Heritage Office
Ben Wright	Heritage Office (for item 10)
Alice Brandjes	Heritage Office
Vince Sicari	Heritage Office

**Apologies**

Chris Johnson, Government Architect (represented by Bruce Pettman)  
Mary-Lynne Taylor  
Kerry Bedford

**2. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of 20 September 2001 were confirmed.

**3. Declarations of Personal Interest**

Nil

**4. Action Report**

Members noted the Action Report. Further information was also provided to members on the present position of the following issues:

**Tempe House**

Members were informed that Rockdale Council has written requesting clarification of the Heritage Council's decision on the IDA to widen Arncliffe Street.

Members were also informed that it appears that tenders have been called for the redesign of the sub-podium of the development, potentially as the sub-podium in its current form is too expensive to construct. The Heritage Office has requested early discussions with the developer to resolve the sub-podium issues. The developer has not yet signed the heritage agreement.

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**Scots Church**

The proposed meeting of the Heritage Council's Scots Church sub-committee with Sydney City Council's Design Committee has not occurred. The Council's sub-committee has been disbanded and the Heritage Office is in discussion with Sydney City Council as to how to progress this issue.

It appears that heritage issues have been resolved and the issues still to be resolved relate to traffic and parking. Jim Barrett reiterated the Heritage Council's willingness to assist with assisting in any discussions with Sydney City Council to facilitate the development as it is considered a positive heritage outcome.

**BHP**

The Heritage Office has received a conservation management plan and archaeological management plan for the BHP site. While they have not yet been reviewed, from initial inspection it is likely they are too brief and will not adequately address the issues identified for the site.

**Government House Site, Port Macquarie**

Reece McDougall, Susan Macdonald and William Blackledge attended a meeting in Port Macquarie in early November. They met with community groups, the Mayor and Councillors in the morning and the Friends in the early afternoon. A further meeting was held with the developer in the afternoon to discuss fine tuning the design and finishes of the proposed new building. There will be further discussions with the architect on this issue.

An agreement with the developer has been reached on holding costs and discussion is still continuing on archaeological and parking relocation costs.

The Heritage Office has called for expressions of interest for the preparation of a conservation management plan for the site. It is expected a consultant will be engaged by early December.

The IDA for the development will come to the Heritage Council at its meeting of 6 December 2001.

**5. Presentations**

Nil

**6. Integrated Development Applications/Section 60 and 132  
Applications/Section 140 Excavation Permits**

Nil

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**7. Development Application Referrals**

Nil

**8. Planning Instruments / Heritage Studies**

Nil

**9. Matters for Consideration**

**9.1 Draft Heritage Council Approvals Committee Chair's report**

Members discussed issues associated with the work of the Committee and identified issues needing review. These included the Heritage Office's delegation policy, performance figures (including turnaround times for work items in the office), the time spent resolving issues with applicants and formulating conditions of approval, public participation in the decision making process and cost of works of applications.

It was agreed that the Government House project at Port Macquarie should be highlighted as an excellent model for future conduct of major developments.

Another issue for consideration next year is the future role of the Committee, especially in light of the recent amendments to the Heritage Act.

It was agreed that the Chairman's report should include reference to these issues and also include new overhead pages on all these issues.

**Resolved:**

**To include the issues identified above in the Chairman's report and to provide any further suggestions in advance of the Chair's presentation to the December Heritage Council meeting.**

**10. Matters for Information**

**10.1 Potential unauthorised work at the Eric Pratten House, Pymble**

Members were informed that the new owners of this substantial house have potentially undertaken unauthorised work. The work includes demolition of bathroom fabric in three bathrooms, construction of a fence and plantings in the garden.

Ku-ring-gai Council is considering prosecution under the Local Government Act.

Susan Macdonald informed members of the investigation into the matter to date and explained that the issues involved have highlighted inadequacies of the

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Heritage Act, especially in relation to powers of inspection and immediate enforcement. These issues will be further discussed with the Crown Solicitors Office.

**Resolved:**

**To note the action being undertaken by the Heritage Office as described in this report.**

**11. General Business**

Nil

**12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 13 December 2001 at Signature Tower, 2 - 10 Wentworth Street, Parramatta.

Members took the opportunity, before the meeting closed, to acknowledge and express appreciation for Jim Barrett's role as Chairman of the Approvals Committee and his participation in a number of committees. Jim's role in discussing the development at the former government house site at Port Macquarie was noted to have been particularly effective.

On behalf of the Heritage Office, Reece McDougall also expressed appreciation for Jim's support for the work of the Heritage Office and his efforts towards achieving good heritage outcomes.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:30.