

3.2 Executive Director's Report including

3.2.1 Matters approved under Delegation (Listings team)

3.2.2 Matters approved under Delegation (Conservation team)

3.2.3 Heritage Council Meeting Action Report

NSW hosted the September meeting the HCOANZ, the Chairs and Officials inspected the Prince Henry Site, Walsh Bay and had a special tour of the new interpretative tour of the Sydney Opera House which is yet to be released to the public. Key issues discussed at the meeting included the Commonwealths response to the Productivity Commission Report, Local Government and Criteria and Thresholds Project.

Members were advised that at the last HCOANZ meeting NSW agreed to hold a National workshop to examine the lack of trade skills. It was noted that two workshops were held at which 28 people from around Australia attended. The sessions were run by John Fielder who is involved with Heritage Trades at English Heritage and has worked with the Getty Institute.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

3.2.4 Media Highlights Presentation – verbal presentation

Members were advised that the total number of relevant media stories in August was 92 and September 50. Positive stories were around 70% each month. It was noted that the Department of Planning Media Unit has centralised all media enquiries.

Key topics covered during the past months included the convict sites national listing, the M24 midget submarine ceremony, the Dunbar St Stephens ceremony, the proposal to list Bondi Beach on the state Heritage Register and the Currawong development proposal.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council note the report.

4.0 Matters for Consideration and Decision

4.1 Heritage Council endorsement of *NSW Heritage Council Policies on managing change to heritage items*

Members considered a paper which sought Heritage Council endorsement of the Managing Change policy document.

It was noted that the policy was not new, rather it brings together a large number of policy documents in existence in one place, reaffirming their status, under a standard format and linking them together.

Members were advised that the document sits at the highest level of Heritage Office / Heritage Council publications essentially providing the framework for heritage management as it relates to change of heritage items. It is a decision making tool that will be used by the Heritage Council for its work.

It is a web based publication, which means that it is easily accessible to the widest range of people and enables the document to be cross referenced in a way that makes it easy for users to find information at the click of a button.

The document has been reviewed by relevant Heritage Council panels.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council:

1. endorse, consistent with Section 21 (2) (b) of the Heritage Act, 1977 the draft *Managing Change* policy subject to minor editorial amendments and finalisation of images; and
2. following the above, note that the Heritage Office will proceed with the design and publication of the guidelines including electronic publication.

4.2 Heritage Council Submission to the Review of the Heritage Act

Members considered a draft of the submission to be submitted to Panel undertaking the review of the Heritage Act, 1977.

Recommendation

that the Heritage Council endorses in principal, subject to finalisation by the subcommittee of the Heritage Council the “Review of the Heritage Act 2007 – Submission - Heritage Council of NSW - October 2007” for issue to the Minister’s independent review panel’s review into the Heritage Act, 1977.

4.3 Heritage Volunteer Awards

Members were advised that 2006 had been a “catch up” year in which 21 awards were presented to recipients nominated in previous years. This year the program was advertised as usual. It is proposed that 21 awards be presented by the Minister at the Jubilee Room at parliament House on 14th November. It was noted that The Hon. Linda Burney MP is to be invited to participate as Minister for Volunteering.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council:

1. approve the 21 nominations proposed above for the 2007 NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards; and
2. approve the presentation of the award to Meredith Walker as a Lifetime Achievement Award.

4.4 Catherine Hill Bay

Deferred for consideration by the Approvals Committee

4.5 History Panel: terms of reference and membership

Members were advised that members of the History Advisory Panel hold office for three year terms, with all terms commencing and expiring simultaneously. The current membership was appointed by the Heritage Council at its August meeting, and the first meeting of the Panel was held shortly after.

It was noted that it is the practice of the Panel to review its terms of reference and membership categories at its first meeting following reappointment, and this review was duly undertaken.

Members were advised that the Panel has recommended several amendments (as outlined in detail in Annexure A) to its existing terms of reference:

- combine terms 3 and 7 as they are very similar,
- combine terms 4 and 6 as they are very similar,
- broaden term 8 to include local, state, national and world heritage themes (to provide a more holistic basis to themes than being restricted to SHR),
- new term: encourage the involvement of historians in heritage work (to address concerns that this involvement is declining),
- new term: to advocate for recognition of history within the practise of heritage (for same reason as above),
- new term: advise the Heritage Council on heraldic heritage (to assist in fulfilling responsibilities under *State Arms, Symbols & Emblems Act 2004*).

It was also noted that the panel has also recommended that one of its membership categories be amended by changing the category of 'A person with expertise in heraldry' to a 'Nominee of Heraldry Australia Inc.', as outlined in Annexure B. The reason for this amendment reflects the fact that the body of heraldic expertise in NSW is largely consonant with the membership of Heraldry Australia, which is the pre-eminent expert organisation in this field. It will reduce the call on resources for the Heritage Office to obtain future nominations for this category by seeking a nomination directly from Heraldry Australia in place of general advertising and then consulting with Heraldry Australia anyway to obtain expert guidance in identifying an appropriate nominee.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council:

1. amends the terms of reference for the History Advisory Panel by combining terms 3 and 7, and 4 and 6; by amending term 8, and by adding three new terms as detailed in Annexure A; and
2. amends one membership category for the History Advisory Panel by deleting the category termed 'A person with expertise in heraldry' and replacing it with a category termed 'Nominee of Heraldry Australia Inc.' as outlined in Annexure B.

4.6 Revision of the Conservation Area Guidelines

Members considered a paper which sought Heritage Council endorsement of the revisions to the 1996 Heritage Office/Department of Planning Conservation Areas Guidelines.

The guidelines have been revised to update them to align with current policy, include more recent best practice examples, align it with planning policy inherent within the regional, metro and city centre strategies, and recognise the new Standard Local Environmental Plan provisions. The *Guidelines* are included in the Heritage Office deliverables under the Department of Planning Corporate Plan.

The document is a third tier document in the publications hierarchy – and provides more detailed information and guidance to heritage advisors, local council planners and consultants working to identify, protect and manage change in conservation areas.

It was suggested that the summary of "Design in contest" was reiterative and should be abbreviated so that the two documents dovetail more efficiently.

Recommendation

That the Heritage Council:

1. endorse the draft document consistent with section 21(2) of the Heritage Act, entitled *Conservation Areas: Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Change in Conservation Areas* subject to the Heritage Council's editorial amendments and finalisation of images; and
2. following the above, note that the heritage Office will proceed with the design and publication of the guidelines.

5.0 Matters for Information or Noting

Nil

6.0 Reports from Heritage Council Committees and Panels

- 6.1 Approvals Committee
- 6.2 State Heritage Register Committee
- 6.3 Strategy Committee
- 6.4 Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Panel
- 6.5 Archaeology Advisory Panel
- 6.6 Fire Access Services Advisory Panel
- 6.7 History Advisory Panel
- 6.8 Maritime Archaeology Advisory Panel
- 6.9 Technical Advisory Panel
- 6.10 Religious Property Advisory Panel

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the reports.

7.0 General Business

Nil

8.0 Presentations

8.1 Museum of Contemporary Art

The Chair introduced Elizabeth Ann Macgregor Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art who outlined the proposal for the future of the Museum.

Members were advised that the Museum is supportive of the heritage significance of the building, but there are difficulties in making the circulation work properly and to incorporate visitor and education facilities. It was noted that equity of access is also important along with the flexibility of gallery spaces and the need to optimize revenue opportunities. There is also a difficulty in the public recognizing that the building is housing contemporary art.

Members were further advised that the Museum considers it important to retain the views across Circular Quay to the eastern façade and to retain access from the eastern side through to George Street. It was noted that the new proposal which involved the construction of a new building to the north of the museum will provide access for the west to the east at the northern edge of the Museum through a common foyer and that additional gallery space will be attached to the foyer to the north. It was noted that the proposal is at the concept stage.

A design review panel has been appointed to oversee the proposal and the design of a new building which will have a gap to retain the distinction between the old and the new.

It was also noted that heritage consultants and SHFA had strongly advised not to reveal Commissariat archaeology.

Negotiation with the adjacent Police Station regarding their future requirements is underway as well as the Sydney Opera House.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council:

- 1. thank the Museum of Contemporary Art for the presentation.**
- 2. advise the presenters that it would be keen to continue assisting in developing a scheme which provides the Museum with the necessary accommodation while protecting the heritage values of the place.**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 12.30 pm.

**Next Meeting of the Heritage Council of NSW
Wednesday 5th December 2007
Heritage Office
Department of Planning
3 Marist Place
Parramatta**

